

Poetry.

AN ACROSTIC.

BY A. PEARSON.

As minister of holy grace,
Doing good to all the race,
Go forth in our Jehovah's name
Neglecting nothing in the same,
And with the two-edged sword of truth,
Give saint or sinner the reproof,
Earned by a wayward mode of life,
Yawning through this mundane strife.

Evangelizing agent, thou,
Doing labor humbly bow,
In thought and deed to heaven's King,
That human souls to him may bring.
Onerary call, and most sublime,
Redeeming souls to endless Time.

Brethren, in this sacred cause,
Rise! to the honor of the name
Embraced within the holy laws—
"To labor and to share the same."
Herculean tasks are easy done,
Rare victory will the battle grace,
Each brother adds the help of one
Neglecting not to fill his place.

Evangelists we all should be,
Vast work to aid with pen and word,
And on our pages strive to see
Naught else but God's true spirit-sword
Glittering in each placid line,
Embellished with the tone of love,
Learned from that holy book divine,
Inscribed by Him who dwells above;
Sending every promised grace
To those who truly fill their place.

Contributions.

BOOKS THAT HAVE HELPED ME.

Z. T. LIVENGOOD.

All books at the very best are but helps, even the Bible, the greatest of all books, is but a help. "The Lord also is only our helper." Heb. 13:6. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, or rather *into* salvation to all who believe. Books will not do your thinking, your believing, your acting, we must *act* and *think* for ourselves.

Of all the books that have helped me none have been of aid like the Bible. This book has been a great help to me in temptations, in sorrow, in health, in sickness, and it has been a wonderful help in forming a christian character. The teachings of the Bible are without a parallel in point of loftiness and goodness. In short the Bible *believed* and *obeyed* will ultimately make man perfect, and give him eternal life. The Bible helps to develop truthfulness, wisdom, knowledge, purity, love, faith, hope and joy. An honest, careful,

earnest and thorough study of the Bible is always followed with good results. The influence for good, resulting from such a study of this precious book can scarcely be estimated.

This book is God's book and can only be vitally embraced and understood by understanding and embracing man and nature. There are other books that have helped me to utilize this book of books. It is one thing to *read* a book, it is quite another thing to *study* it. The New Testament must be *studied* and *obeyed* in order to be fully understood. There are some books that are fundamentally important in a successful and comprehensive study of the Bible. A good standard dictionary of the English language is indispensably necessary. Webster, Worcester, Century or Standard are all good, but I very much prefer a late work and one that is complete and contains at least nearly all the words used in the English language. "The Standard Dictionary" published by Funk and Wagnalls is excellent. Ever remember we must know the meaning of the words we read. A complete concordance of the Bible is also a very great help and a saving of time. Young's Analytical Concordance is without a peer and has been to me of almost inexpressible help. Arthur Hind's Interlinear Greek-English New Testament and Liddell & Scott's Greek-English Lexicon are very valuable in a successful study and comprehension of God's word. When we know the history of a language then we know the history of that people. Drummond's Natural Law in the Spiritual World is worthy a place in every library. Among the many other good books that have helped me are found, Barnes' Notes, Meyers' Commentary, Parker's Peoples' Bible, Ante-Nicene Fathers, Nicene Fathers and the Post-Nicene Fathers, Britanica, Beecher's Sermons, Philip Brooks' Sermons, Charles Deem's Sermons, Matthew Henry's commentary and a host of others that are a continual and ever present help. And yet with all these splendid helps they are *only* helps and one may miserably fail with them all. We must be in active touch with the present and the needs of the future. Without effort, without work, without sympa-

thy, without obedience we may fail. But with all the help of God, books, good literature, good men and women and our own earnest efforts we will surely succeed. Whenever I depend too much on books for my sermons, and fail to meditate upon the word of God and fail to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and lose sight of the real needs of the people, I fail. When I take the book itself and dig into its precious truths and lay hold of the presence of God and keep on digging and digging into the storehouse of God's granary and live for God and my fellowmen *then* these books all become a great help and I do not fall but God holds me up and prospers me.

FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS.

MRS. A. B. SUMMERS.

In all the vicissitudes of life there is a principle underlying the success of every enterprise we undertake. It is our faithfulness in the discharge of little things—such as seem to be of minor importance when viewing our field of labor, and it is immaterial what our vocation in life, unfaithfulness in the performance of seemingly trifling things often brings disaster and ruin, and curtails our otherwise certain possibilities for success and good in the world.

We will notice a few of the necessities to the observance of little things. A child if left to indulge in all the little vices and waywardness incident to childhood, and if not restrained and instructed to paths of truth and rectitude will grow up as a curse rather than a blessing to those he should honor and love. The person who strives to make his mark in the line of education is faithful in all the details that pertain to the interest of the same. Different authors are consulted even in the little difficulties that present themselves in the research of his aims. The musician that would gain a reputation in the realms of musical culture is cognizant of the fact that all the little things requisite for such fame must be faithfully acquired. The "queen of the household" is careful of the little odds and ends that contribute to the make-up of a happy and prosperous home. And as our worldly affairs are promoted by faithfulness in little things, so also